

CHAPTER 4. SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

SUBCHAPTER 7. OTHER APPOINTMENTS OR EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

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4A:4-7.1 Transfers within the same governmental jurisdiction

(a) A permanent transfer is the movement of a permanent employee between organizational units within the same governmental jurisdiction.

1 In State service, an organizational unit shall mean an appointing authority. The Department of Human Services shall constitute a single appointing authority for purposes of this subchapter.

2 In local service, an organizational unit shall mean a department or separate agency within the same county or municipality. A school district shall be considered a separate jurisdiction.

(b) If the transferred employee is concurrently appointed to a title other than that held on a permanent basis at the time of transfer to accurately reflect new duties, the permanent transfer shall be made in combination with appropriate promotional, lateral title change or voluntary demotion procedures. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.4 et seq., 4A:4-7.6 and 4A:4-7.8, respectively.

1 The employee shall retain permanent status in the previously held permanent title with the recipient organizational unit until examination and working test period procedures are concluded.

2 If the employee does not successfully complete the examination or working test period procedures, the recipient organizational unit shall return the employee to his or her permanent title within this organizational unit pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:4-1.9 unless the employee has been disqualified for further employment.

(c) A permanent transfer shall require the consent of both organizational units, the affected employee, and the approval of the Department of Personnel.

1 Consent may be withdrawn by any party prior to the effective date of the transfer.

2 The consent of the employee shall not be required when there is a transfer or combining of functions or operations across organizational unit lines.

(d) A temporary transfer may be voluntary or involuntary and is the movement of a permanent employee between organizational units within the same governmental jurisdiction for a maximum of six months to effect economies, make available a needed service for short periods or for any other documented purpose which is in the best interest of the public service. All temporary transfers must be approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Personnel.

(e) An emergency transfer may be voluntary or involuntary and is the movement of a permanent employee between organizational units within the same governmental jurisdiction for a maximum of 30 days.

1 The Commissioner may authorize an emergency transfer when the appointing authority for the receiving unit certifies that the failure to make such transfer will result in harm to persons or property.

2 If there is a need to extend the emergency transfer beyond 30 days, the procedures governing temporary transfers must be followed.

(f) Any affected employee must be given at least 30 days' written notice of an involuntary transfer, except an involuntary emergency transfer, in which case reasonable notice must be given.

1. The notice shall contain the following:

i. The organizational unit to which the transfer is being made;

ii. The effective date of the transfer; and

iii. The reason for the transfer.

2. Less than 30 days' notice may be given where the employee gives his or her consent for a shorter notice period or the Commissioner of the Department of Personnel finds that a more immediate transfer is required to provide a needed service.

4A:4-7.1A Intergovernmental transfers

(a) An intergovernmental transfer is the movement of a permanent employee between governmental jurisdictions operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, or the appointment of an employee, by a governmental jurisdiction operating under Title 11A, within 90 days of the effective date of a layoff for reasons of economy or efficiency in which the employee is separated from service from another governmental jurisdiction operating under Title 11A.

(b) An intergovernmental transfer shall require the consent in writing of the sending jurisdiction, if any, the receiving jurisdiction and the affected employee, and the approval of the Department of Personnel.

1. The receiving jurisdiction may waive its residency ordinance or resolution in

consenting to receive a transferring employee, provided, however, transferring police officers and firefighters must maintain their New Jersey residency. See N.J.S.A. 40A:14-9.8 and 40A:14-122.8.

(c) A transferred employee shall be moved to a title substantially at the same level.

1 The existence of an open competitive or promotional list in the receiving jurisdiction shall not be a bar to the transfer.

2 Where the title to which the employee is transferring is different from that held on a permanent basis in the sending jurisdiction, or from that held on a permanent basis prior to the effective date of a separation from service due to layoff, as the case may be, the receiving jurisdiction shall request that the Department of Personnel approve the title, based on the following criteria:

i. The title(s) shall have substantially similar duties and responsibilities;

ii. The education and experience requirements for the title(s) are the same or similar and the mandatory requirements of the new title shall not exceed those of the former title;

iii. There shall be no special skills, licenses, certification or registration requirements for the new title which are not also mandatory for the former title; and

iv. Any employee in the former title can, with minimal training and orientation, perform the duties of the new title by virtue of having qualified for the former title.

(d) Permanent employees serving in law enforcement and firefighter titles shall be eligible only for an intergovernmental transfer to the corresponding entry-level title in the receiving jurisdiction.

(e) See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.15, Rating of examinations, for the calculation of seniority in a promotional examination situation when an employee has had an intergovernmental transfer; N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.7, Priority of eligible lists, for the priority of an open competitive list with regard to an intergovernmental transfer; N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.4, Retention of rights, for the retention of seniority following intergovernmental transfers;

N.J.A.C. 4A:6-1.2, Vacation leave, 4A:6-1.3, Sick leave, and 4A:6-1.9, Administrative leave, for paid leave entitlements following an intergovernmental transfer; N.J.A.C. 4A:6-3.5, SCOR: Intergovernmental transfers, for SCOR entitlements following an intergovernmental transfer; N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.3, Exercise of special reemployment rights, for intergovernmental transfers following a separation of service due to layoff; N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.4, Seniority, for the affect of intergovernmental transfers on seniority for layoff purposes; and N.J.A.C. 4A:10-2.2, Failure to appoint from complete certification, for the consequences of a receiving jurisdiction's failure to appoint from an open competitive list when an intergovernmental transfer is effected.

4A:4-7.2 Reassignments

A reassignment is the in-title movement of an employee to a new job function, shift, location or supervisor within the organizational unit. Reassignments shall be made at the discretion of the head of the organizational unit. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.7 for appeals.

4A:4-7.3 Relocation assistance: State service

(a) Subject to available appropriations, the Commissioner may allow relocations assistance for permanent employees who are transferred or reassigned on a permanent basis to a new work location due to a relocation of an office or unit, or a closing or phasedown in anticipation of closing of a State operation.

1 In order to be eligible to participate in the program, an employee's new job site must be at least 25 miles from the prior job site.

2 Relocation assistance will be requested, paid and verified by the receiving appointing authority.

(b) Such assistance may consist of all or part of the following:

1. A commutation allowance applied to the round trip mileage between an employee's domicile and new job site, reduced by the normal commutation mileage between the domicile and the previous job site.

i. The allowance shall be equal to the standard State Mileage Allowance for operating a personal motor vehicle, and shall be limited to a period of six months from the effective date of the transfer.

ii. An employee who is offered fully paid car, van pooling or mass transit options shall not be eligible for a commutation allowance.

2. A one-time moving expense allowance which is to be set by the Commissioner not to exceed \$1,000 for the shipment of household items from the employee's prior domicile to a domicile established as a result of the new work assignment.

i. The employee must demonstrate that the change in domicile was for the sole purpose of establishing a domicile closer to the job site.

ii. The move must be made within one year of the effective date of the transfer.

3. The relocation allowance which is to be set by the Commissioner not to exceed \$1,000 for costs involved in terminating a lease, in rental situations, or costs involved in the sale and purchase of a home, including but not limited to broker's fees and closing costs.

i. The employee must demonstrate that the change in domicile was for the sole purpose of establishing a domicile closer to the new job site.

ii. The move must be made within one year of the effective date of the transfer.

(c) Relocation assistance shall be limited at the employee's option to commutation allowance under (b)1 above or the moving expense allowance and the relocation allowance under (b)2 and 3 above.

4A:4-7.4 Retention of rights

(a) An employee who is temporarily transferred shall retain promotional rights in the promotional unit scope from which he or she has transferred.

(b) An employee who is transferred in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.1, intergovernmentally transferred (other than an employee transferring to police officer or transferring to firefighter) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.1A or is reassigned shall retain accumulated seniority or service for purposes of determining promotional, layoff or demotional rights and sick and vacation leave entitlements. In State service, an employee's rate of compensation, anniversary date and administrative leave entitlements shall be retained.

(c) An employee who is permanently transferred due to a combining of functions or operations of two or more organizational units shall retain promotional rights in the prior promotional unit scope only for promotional examinations he or she has filed for or taken.

(d) An employee who is reassigned from one promotional unit scope to another shall retain no promotional rights in the former unit.

4A:4-7.5 Transfer during a working test period

(a) An employee who is serving a working test period may only be transferred due to a transfer or combining of functions or operations, or the exercise of lateral displacement rights in the course of layoff procedures.

(b) An employee who is permanently transferred during the working test period due to a combining of functions or operations or the exercise of lateral displacement rights shall be permitted to complete working test period in the new organizational unit.

4A:4-7.6 Lateral title change

(a) A lateral title change is the movement of a permanent employee from his or her

permanent title to an equivalent title within the same organizational unit. Such procedures are also applicable to certain transfers under N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.1.

1. In State service, a lateral title change may only be made if the titles are assigned the same class code.

2. Movement between variants of a title shall be considered a lateral title change.

2 In State service, a lateral title change from the noncompetitive to the competitive division is considered a promotion. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.5(e).

(b) If the nature of the work, education and experience requirements of both titles are substantially similar, the employee shall retain his or her permanent status.

1 The employee shall retain accumulated seniority or service for purposes of determining promotional, layoff or demotional rights and sick and vacation entitlements.

2 In State service, the employee's rate of compensation on direct movement as adjusted or workweek, work year and the employee relations grouping, anniversary date and administrative leave entitlement shall be retained.

(c) If the nature of the work, education and experience qualifications of both titles are dissimilar, then the employee shall be appointed pending examination, if the new title is in the competitive division, and satisfactory completion of the working test period. An employee who fails the examination or is released at the end of the working test period shall be restored to his or her permanent title, unless disqualified for further employment.

1 Examination procedures shall be waived, permanent status retained, and aggregate seniority granted, if the employee has previously held the title on a permanent basis during current continuous service. See N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.4(e).

2 The employee shall retain accumulated service for purposes of determining sick and vacation leave entitlements.

3 In State service, the employee's rate of compensation on direct movement as adjusted for workweek, work year and employee relations grouping, anniversary date and administrative leave entitlement shall be retained.

4 A lateral title change pending examination shall not be permitted when either a special reemployment or complete promotional list exists or when the Department of Personnel has received a request to conduct a promotional examination.

(d) A lateral title change shall require the consent of the employee, the head of the organizational unit and the approval of the Department of Personnel except when the title change results from changes in the Department of Personnel Classification Plan, reclassification of the employee's position, or a pre-layoff action agreed to by affected negotiations representatives and approved by the Commissioner.

4A:4-7.7 Appeals

Transfers, reassignments or lateral title changes shall not be utilized as part of a disciplinary action, except when disciplinary procedures have been utilized. When an employee challenges the good faith of a transfer, reassignment or lateral title change, the burden of proof shall be on the employee.

4A:4-7.8 Voluntary demotion

(a) A voluntary demotion is the voluntary movement of a permanent employee from his or her permanent title to a lower title in local service or, in State service, to another title with a lower class code, within the same organizational unit.

(b) Permanent status and seniority shall be retained when the demotion is to a lower related title. See N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.1(b) for criteria on determining related titles.

1. When the demotion is to any title previously held on a permanent basis during current continuous service, permanent status shall be retained. All permanent continuous service in the previously held title shall be aggregated for seniority purposes.

(c) If the criteria set forth in (b) above are not met, the employee shall be appointed pending examination and satisfactory completion of the working test period. An employee who fails the examination or is released at the end of the working test period shall be restored to his or her permanent title, unless disqualified for further employment.

1 An employee who seeks to return to his or her prior permanent title during or upon successful completion of the working test period in the lower title may request placement on a regular reemployment list.

2 An appointing authority may require an employee to execute a written waiver of layoff rights from the higher title during the working test period. If so waived, in the event of a layoff during the working test period, the employee's layoff rights shall be based only on the probationary title.

(d) The employee shall retain accumulated service for the purpose of determining sick and vacation leave entitlements, and in State service, administrative leave entitlement.

(e) With the Commissioner's approval, this section may also apply to employees with permanent status in titles in the non-competitive division who take a voluntary demotion to a title in the competitive division of the career service.

(f) When an employee is returned to his or her prior permanent title after a voluntary demotion, seniority in the prior permanent title shall be aggregated when:

1 The demotion was necessary due to the temporary loss of licensure required to perform the duties of the position;

2 The demotion was agreed to by both the employee and the appointing authority; and

3. The demotion was for a set period of time up to a maximum of one year.

4A:4-7.9 Resignation/new appointment

(a) A permanent employee who is appointed from an open competitive list to a title in a different organizational unit within the same governmental jurisdiction shall be considered to have resigned from the previous permanent title.

1. Accumulated service for purposes of determining sick and vacation leave, and in State service, administrative leave, entitlements shall be retained.

2. See N.J.A.C. 4A:3-4.4(b) for salary placement in State service.

(b) The employee may request placement on the regular reemployment list for the previous title.

(c) The new appointing authority shall inform the employee of his or her effective resignation of permanent status prior to the employee's new appointment.

4A:4-7.10 Regular reemployment

(a) A permanent employee who has resigned in good standing, retired or voluntarily demoted, may request consideration for reemployment by indicating availability to his or her appointing authority.

(b) Upon recommendation of the appointing authority that such reemployment is in the best interest of the service, the Department of Personnel shall place the employee's name on a reemployment list. A regular reemployment list shall be subject to certification to all appointing authorities in a jurisdiction.

(c) Police and fire reemployment lists shall have unlimited durations. Regular reemployment lists for all other titles shall have durations of three years from the date of resignation, retirement or voluntary demotion, unless the list is extended pursuant to

N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.3(a)1.

1. Requests for reemployment must be submitted within the duration of the applicable list.

(d) Seniority commences as of the date of regular reemployment.

4A:4-7.11 Transfer or combining of functions

(a) When any of the functions of a department, agency or unit of a political subdivision operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, are transferred, consolidated, unified, absorbed or combined with those of the State or of a separate political subdivision operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, the Department of Personnel upon request of both appointing

authorities shall approve the transfer of some or all affected employees to the receiving unit.

(b) Any employee so transferred who holds permanent or probationary status in a title in the career service shall continue to hold such status in the receiving unit.

(c) Seniority calculations and leave entitlements for transferred permanent or probationary employees shall be calculated as if the entire period of service was in the receiving unit.

(d) If positions are abolished because they are made no longer necessary by the consolidation of functions, affected employees shall be accorded all layoff and special reemployment rights in N.J.A.C. 4A:8.

4A:4-7.12 Reinstatement following disability retirement

(a) A permanent employee who has been placed on disability retirement may be reinstated following a determination from the Division of Pensions that the retiree is no longer disabled.

(b) The employee's reinstatement shall have priority over appointment from any eligible list, except a special reemployment list.

(c) Seniority for an employee who is reinstated following a period of disability retirement shall be the aggregate of permanent service in the employee's permanent title prior to retirement and following reinstatement. Seniority shall not be granted for the period of retirement.